

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously presented) An apparatus, comprising:

a capture mechanism configured to engage a peripheral device, the capture mechanism having a grasping member and an actuator, the actuator being configured to actuate the grasping member in response to a movement of the peripheral device, the coupling mechanism being configured to move in response to the movement of the peripheral device when the peripheral device is engaged by the capture mechanism; and

a sensing assembly configured to detect a manipulation of the peripheral device while the peripheral device is engaged by the capture mechanism.

13. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the grasping member has a tubular shape.

14. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 12, the grasping member being a tubular grasping member, wherein the actuator further includes:

a spring configured to elongate and compress the tubular grasping member in response to movement of the peripheral device such that the cross-sectional dimension of the tubular grasping member is adjusted.

15. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 12, the grasping member being a tubular grasping member, wherein the grasping member further includes:

a spring configured to elongate and compress the tubular grasping member in response to movement of the peripheral device such that the cross-sectional dimension of the tubular grasping member is adjusted, the grasping member being configured to engage the peripheral device in response to the elongation of the tubular member and being configured to release the peripheral device in response to the compression of the tubular member.

16. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the capture mechanism is disposed within the sensing assembly.

17. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the capture mechanism further includes:

a plurality of jaws configured to surround and engage the peripheral device.

18. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the capture mechanism has a plurality of jaws; and wherein the actuator further includes:

a spring configured to bias the plurality of jaws in a closed position, at least a portion of the grasping member being disposed within the spring;

a semi-conical expander disposed proximate to the spring and configured to manipulate the plurality of jaws between the closed position and an open position; and

an actuator disposed proximate and being coupled to the semi-conical expander.

19. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the capture mechanism has a plurality of jaws; and wherein the capture mechanism further includes:

an automatic capture-and-release mechanism configured to automatically actuate the plurality of jaws to engage the peripheral device.

20. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the capture mechanism has a plurality of jaws, the plurality of jaws of the capture mechanism are actuated by a force applied by a lever associated with a movement of the peripheral device.

21. (Currently Amended) A method of engaging a ~~manipulandum~~ peripheral device configured as a medical instrument in a medical procedure simulation system, the method comprising:

receiving a ~~manipulandum~~ peripheral device configured as a medical instrument into a capture mechanism, the capture mechanism being configured to engage the ~~manipulandum~~ peripheral device;

automatically engaging the ~~manipulandum~~ peripheral device based on a first movement of the ~~manipulandum~~ peripheral device, wherein the automatically engaging the ~~peripheral device~~ device includes magnetically actuating a lever to open and close a plurality of jaws; and

automatically releasing the ~~manipulandum~~ peripheral device based on a second movement of the ~~manipulandum~~ peripheral device.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein the engaging the ~~manipulandum~~ peripheral device includes frictionally engaging the ~~manipulandum~~ peripheral device.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein the engaging the ~~manipulandum~~ peripheral device includes engaging the ~~manipulandum~~ peripheral device using a plurality of jaws.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein the engaging the ~~manipulandum~~ peripheral device includes:

engaging the ~~manipulandum~~ peripheral device using a plurality of jaws, the plurality of jaws being configured to open and close based on the movement of a lever.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein the engaging the ~~manipulandum~~ peripheral device includes mechanically actuating a lever to open and close a plurality of jaws.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein engaging the ~~manipulandum~~ peripheral device includes:

inserting the ~~manipulandum~~ peripheral device into a tubular member having cross-sectional dimension;

moving a spring from a first position to a second position different from the first position;

reducing the cross-sectional dimension of the tubular member based on the movement of the spring; and

frictionally engaging the ~~manipulandum~~-peripheral device with the tubular member while the cross-sectional dimension is reduced.

28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, further comprising:

inserting the ~~manipulandum~~-peripheral device into a tubular member having cross-sectional dimension;

moving a spring from a first position to a second position different from the first position;

reducing the cross-sectional dimension of the tubular member based on the movement of the spring;

frictionally engaging the ~~manipulandum~~-peripheral device with the tubular member while the cross-sectional dimension is reduced; and

releasing the ~~manipulandum~~-peripheral device by increasing the cross-sectional dimension of the tubular member based on the movement of the spring from the second position to the first position.

29. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

a grasping member configured to engage an elongate ~~manipulandum~~-peripheral device configured as a medical instrument, wherein the grasping member includes a woven mesh member;

an actuator configured to reduce a cross-sectional dimension of the grasping member; and

a spring assembly being coupled to the grasping member and being configured to change a dimension of the grasping member such that the elongate ~~manipulandum~~-peripheral device is engaged.

30. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the grasping member further includes:

an expandable tubular member configured to frictionally engage the elongate ~~manipulandum~~ peripheral device.

31. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the grasping member further includes:

a plurality of jaws, the plurality of jaws being moveable between a first position and a second position based on forces applied by the actuator.

32. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 29, further comprising:

a plurality of jaws having a first end portion, the first end portion of the plurality of jaws being configured to receive the ~~manipulandum~~ peripheral device;

a collet expander having a conical first end, the conical first end of the collet expander being configured to engage the plurality of jaws and maintain the plurality of jaws in an open position, the collet expander being moveable between a first position and a second position;

a lever, the lever being configured to receive an actuating force from the actuator, the lever being configured to apply a force to a second end of the collet expander such that the collet expander provides a force to the plurality of jaws in response to the force associated with the lever; and

a spring, the spring being configured to bias the collet expander in the first position such that when the collet expander moves from the second position to the first position the plurality of jaws close about the ~~manipulandum~~ peripheral device.

33. (Canceled)